

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 02343 170851Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 FMC-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09
OES-07 NEA-10 L-03 /059 W
-----044338 170906Z /15
P 170846Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7107
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 02343

TOKYO FOR MARRAT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EWWT, TW
SUBJECT: ROC-MIDDLE-EAST CARGO ASSIGNMENT

REF: TAIPEI A-28

BOARD OF FOREIGN TRADE, MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
HAS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED ADOPTION OF SCHEME ASSIGNING
TAIWAN CARGO BOUND FOR FIVE MIDDLE EAST PORTS TO MEMBERS
OF EXCLUSIVELY CHINESE (FLAG AND NON-FLAG) MIDDLE EAST
CONFERENCE. PORTS ARE JIDDA, ACABA, DUBAI, DAHMAN,
AND KUWAIT. MEASURE, WHICH WILL TAKE EFFECT APRIL 17,
ALLOWS SHIPPERS TO USE OTHER VESSELS IF COMMODITIES TO
BE EXPORTED ARE REQUIRED TO BE REFRIGERATED, FROZEN
CONTAINERIZED, OR CARRIED BY VESSELS OF IMPORTING
COUNTRIES OR ARE EXTRA-HEAVY OR EXTRA LONG. HOWEVER,
IN SUCH CASES NAME OF CARRYING VESSEL AND ITS
CHARACTERISTICS MUST BE DECLARED, AND DECLARATIONS ARE
SUBJECT TO INVESTIGATION BY BANKS AND GOVERNMENT
REGULATORY PERSONNEL. SEVERE PENALTIES ARE PROVIDED
FOR BOTH SHIPPER AND CARRIER IN CASE OF VIOLATION.
AMERICAN CARRIERS FEAR MEASURE WILL BE INTERPRETED TO
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PREVENT CONTINUATION OF CONTAINERIZATION FOR THE CON-
VENIENCE OF THE CARRIER, A CURRENT COMMON PRACTICE
WHEREBY THEY RECEIVE CARGO FROM SHIPPER AS BREAK-BULK
AND STUFF INTO CONTAINERS. HOWEVER, PRECISE
INTENTION OF GROC IS CLEAR TO NEITHER CARRIERS NOR
EMBASSY AS DIFFERING STORIES AND INTERPRETATIONS HAVE
ISSUED FROM VARIOUS GROC SOURCES AT VARIOUS TIMES.

EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED OFFICIAL COPY OF MEASURE. DELEGATION
OF CARRIERS HAS REQUESTED MEETING WITH BOARD OF FOREIGN
TRADE ON APRIL 17 TO SEEK CLARIFICATION. SEALAND HAS
STATED THAT IF THESE DISCUSSIONS INDICATE WORST-CASE
GROC INTENTION, I.E. MONOPOLY OR ASSIGNMENT OF
95 PERCENT OF MIDDLE-EAST-BOUND CARGO TO CHINESE VESSELS,
AMERICAN CARRIERS WILL SEEK USG INTERVENTION. UNGER

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